

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, and 32 are pending. Claims 1, 3, 7, 9, 22, 24, 28, and 30 are independent. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30 and 32 are hereby amended. Claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12-21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31 and 33-42 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. .

No new matter has been introduced. Changes to the claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §112 and 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. Claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30, and 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,801,747 to Bedard (hereinafter, merely "Bedard"), in view of European Patent Application No. 000717346A2 to Takiguchi et al. (hereinafter, merely "Takiguchi"), in view of U.S. Patent 6,002,401A to Baker (hereinafter,

merely “Baker”) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,392,670 to Takeuchi et al. (hereinafter, merely “Takeuchi”).

III. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS

Claims 1, 3, 7, 9, 22, 24, 28, and 30 have been amended, thereby obviating the 35 U.S.C. §112 issue.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*:

“An information providing apparatus for providing a desired information screen by making selection from icons respectively assigned to information screens, comprising:

...means for displaying a menu of media, said menu of media representing contents of a plurality of recording/reproducing media... (emphasis added)

A summary of the art used as a basis of rejection has been provided previously.

The summary and arguments are incorporated in this response.

Furthermore, as understood by Applicants, Bedard discloses that “in accordance with the present invention, the information captured by the viewer profile can be used by an EPG to tailor display 400 so as to provide faster access to information concerning the viewer's preferred channels and/or programming categories. Thus, rows 404 may be configured by an EPG in accordance with the viewer profile such that preferred channels or preferred categories of programming are displayed at the top of table 402, and may be easily selected by a viewer.”

(Column 7, lines 19-27 of Bedard, see Office Action page 10). The Office Action lists

“channels, TV stations” as “the plurality of reproducing media” (see Office Action page 10).

Applicants disclose that “icons for specifying a digital video disk (DVD), a hard disk device (HDD), and a compact disk player (CD) are arranged from the top in the center. From the top

side in the right end, icons for specifying D-VHS, DVD-R, and VHS are respectively arranged”.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully disagree with the assertion that the cited portion of Bedard discloses or suggests “means for displaying a menu of media, said menu of media representing contents of a plurality of recording/reproducing media”. Applicants submit that there is no disclosure in Bedard of “means for displaying a menu of media, said menu of media representing contents of a plurality of recording/reproducing media”.

It is respectfully submitted that Bedard does not render claim 1 unpatentable.

Applicants submit that the Office Action relies on Takiguchi, Baker, and Takeuchi to teach “means for displaying a menu of media, said menu of media representing contents of a plurality of recording/reproducing media”. Applicants submit that Takiguchi, Baker, and Takeuchi fail to provide the disclosure missing from Bedard regarding the feature discussed above. Therefore, Bedard, Takiguchi, Baker, and Takeuchi, take alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the above-identified features of claim 1.

Another feature recited in claim 1 is:

“ wherein the operation information entails operation keys, which are simultaneously operated...” (emphasis added)

The Office Action (page 4) relies on Takiguchi, page 19, lines 9-30, as providing disclosure for this feature. As understood by Applicants, Takiguchi discloses that “the navigation cursor 821 is pointed at any position within the level display area 817 for directory E, and the mouse button 304 is held down. The level display area 817 for directory E is then zoomed in to occupy the whole screen. Fig. 21 shows a zoomed-in display of directory E. With the data icon representing file E-2 selected, the mouse button 304 is doubled-clicked (a double-click means in general that a mouse button is clicked twice for a short period of time.” (page 19, lines 18-22 of Takiguchi, see Office Action, page 4). Applicants respectfully disagree with the assertion that the cited portion of Takiguchi discloses or suggests “wherein the operation

information entails operation keys, which are simultaneously operated". Applicants submit that there is no disclosure in Takiguchi of "wherein the operation information entails operation keys, which are simultaneously operated".

Applicants submit that Bedard, Takiguchi, Baker, or Takeuchi, taken alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest "wherein the operation information entails operation keys, which are simultaneously operated". Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 1 is patentable.

Claims 3, 7, 9, 22, 24, 28, and 30 are similar, or somewhat similar, in scope to claim 1, and are therefore patentable for similar, or somewhat similar, reasons.

Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claims 1, 3, 7, 9, 22, 24, 28, and 30 are patentable.

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

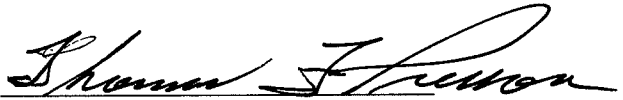
In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the references providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims are in condition for allowance and request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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